

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

196
R 315n

SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS
GILA AND SALT RIVER DRAINAGES IN ARIZONA

Special Supplemental Report

March 15, 1943

Precipitation: Above normal precipitation occurred during the first part of this month in the east central section of Arizona on the headwaters of the Salt and Gila rivers. At Whiteriver the rainfall, up to the 15th of the month, was 2.70 inches. At McNary there was a snowfall of about 10 inches which was soon dissipated due to rising temperatures and strong warm winds. The soil moisture conditions over the upper Salt River drainage is good and stream flow at present is high and roily.

Snow Cover: The present snow cover in the Alpine and McNary areas is practically nil. Only one snow course, Frisco Divide, is reported to have measurable depths with a water content of 2 inches. In the White Mountains melting has occurred with no snow below elevation 7,000 feet. On the north slopes above 8,000 feet the snow cover is estimated to be 2 to 3 feet deep. There has been no material change in snow conditions, since the first of March, in the Prescott National Forest over the watersheds of the Agua Fria and Verde rivers.

Reservoir Storage: On March 15, the net storage, in principal reservoirs on the Salt River, was about 1,486,000 acre-feet of water in comparison with 1,647,000 a year ago at this time, or 90 percent as much. The daily inflow over the past week has averaged about 20,000 acre feet. The present available storage in the San Carlos reservoir, on the Gila, is 562,000 acre feet, a gain of about 30,000 since the first of the month. Storage in the Carl Pleasant reservoir on the Verde is now about 5,000 acre feet or approximately 3 percent of its capacity. Lake Mead stores 21,760,000 acre feet at this time or about 75 percent of its total capacity.

Water Supply Outlook: The outlook since the first of the month has improved due to heavy storms over the headwaters of the Salt and Gila. Maximum inflow into the reservoir system of the Salt exceeded 50,000 acre-feet on March 6th. Soil moisture and range conditions have improved. The runoff from melting snow in this section of the state will be much below normal this season.

Summary of Snow Surveys, March 15, 1943

Snow Course	Location	Drainage	Snow Depth			Water Content		
			Inches			Inches		
			March 15			March 15		
			1941	1942	1943	1941	1942	1943
Frisco Divide	6m. S. Luna	Blue R.	6.4	9.4	6.0	2.1	2.0	2.0
State Line	5m. W. Luna	"	18.7	9.6	0.0	5.8	2.3	0.0
Murrioso	4m. N. Alpine	San Fran. R.	7.6	5.0	0.0	2.5	1.8	0.0
Beaver Head	11m. SW. Alpine	Castle Cr.	20.5	12.1	0.0	7.7	3.9	0.0
Coronado Trail	4m. S. Alpine	Coleman Cr.	18.5	12.8	1.3	6.7	4.5	0.1
Warrior Creek	13m. NW. Chloride	Gila River	--	1.3	--	--	0.1	--
McNary	3m. NW. McNary	Salt R.	0.0	9.3	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0
Forest Dale	5m. SW. Silverlow	" "	0.0	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0
Trout Creek	3m. SW. McNary	" "	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black Ranch	4m. W. McNary	" "	0.0	6.1	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0

This report was issued at Fort Collins, Colorado, March 18, 1943, by the Division of Irrigation, Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Indian Service, the U.S. Weather Bureau, the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association, San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District and other local irrigation interests of Arizona.

(7430-43)

